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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION

1937 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM - - - - - NORTHEAST REGION

BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE PROGRAM

*"As never before, the Nation has awakened to the need of stopping the exploitation of soil resources.*

*"Conservation of soil is the last line of defense against national suicide. That defense must go on."*

—Secretary HENRY A. WALLACE

A SYSTEM of farming which will be more profitable in the long run for the farmer and safer for the Nation is the aim of the 1937 AAA conservation program.

In the Northeast that aim means particularly more farming practices which maintain and build up the productivity of soil. During past years many farmers who knew what their land needed have lacked money to improve it. Some have been forced into overcropping. The need for immediate cash return has forced farmers to disregard their own long-time interests and those of the Nation. In the long run the results would be higher costs of production, higher prices to consumers, and a lower standard of living for farmers.

Waste of soil in all parts of the country has been so extensive that conservation of soil resources has become a national problem. The need now is to preserve the productivity of the land upon which the Nation must depend for the bulk of its food and fiber. These are the reasons why the AAA conservation program offers payments to farmers who conserve soil on individual farms in the country, and why the Federal Government makes funds available for this purpose.

The AAA conservation program seeks to encourage farming practices which maintain and improve soil and to achieve a better balance between crops which deplete soil and those which conserve soil.

In general the 1937 program follows the pattern of the 1936 program. Changes which have been made are intended to fit the program more closely to the needs of farmers in the various localities and regions.

NEW PROVISIONS FOR NORTHEAST

For the Northeast Region the important new provisions in the 1937 program are these:

1. More emphasis has been placed on soil-building practices, and less emphasis on diverting acreage from soil-depleting to soil-con-



serving crops. Only certain farms in certain States will be eligible for diversion payments.

2. Farmers will handle more of the details of local administration than they did last year. Farmers will form their own local associations, and members of those associations will elect community or county committeemen.

3. Fruit and vegetable farmers will be eligible for larger soil-building allowances than most of them had last year.

4. Some noncrop pasture land will count toward the soil-building allowance.

#### SUMMARY OF THE 1937 PROGRAM

**Proposed payments.**—Carrying out the program on the basis of payments proposed is contingent upon a specific appropriation by Congress of the amount authorized for 1937, which is \$500,000,000.

**Fewer payments for diversion.**—This year in the Northeast not all farms will be eligible for diversion payments. Except for tobacco, several entire States have no provisions for diversion payments. In the remaining States, some areas will be eligible for diversion payments and some will not. No farm, except in the case of tobacco, will be eligible for diversion payments unless it has a substantial base acreage of soil-depleting crops. The reason for the change is this: On many farms, and in whole areas of the Northeast, enough land already is in soil-conserving crops and in pasture. For such land, real soil conservation means improving hay and pasture lands, planting forest trees, and other such practices. Farms not eligible for diversion payments will have added opportunities to earn soil-building payments.

**Soil-building payments.**—For each State of the Northeast Region, there will be announced a list of approved soil-building practices, and the rates of payment for each practice. A farmer may earn soil-building payments up to the limit of his soil-building allowance.

For farms not eligible for diversion payments the allowance will be \$1 for each acre of cropland except commercial orchards and vineyards on the farm.

For farms which are eligible for diversion payments, the allowance will be \$1 for each acre of cropland, except commercial orchards and vineyards, not included in soil-depleting bases plus \$1 for each acre on which diversion payments are made.

In addition, the following amounts will be included in the soil-building allowances for both diversion and nondiversion farms:

Two dollars for each acre of commercial orchards, vineyards, and bush fruits on the farm on January 1, 1937; \$1 for each acre of cropland on which one crop of commercial vegetables was grown in 1936; \$2 for each acre on which two or more crops of commercial vegetables were grown in 1936.

Approximately 35 cents, varying with States, per acre for certain acres of fenced, noncrop, open-pasture land. To be eligible, the pasture land must be able to feed at least one horse or cow for every 5 acres. Allowance for pasture acres will be made only on acres in excess of half the number of acres of cropland on the farm.

For example, if a farm has 40 acres of cropland and 40 acres of pasture, the 35 cents per acre allowance will be made for 20 acres



of the pasture land. If the pasture acreage were half or less than half of the acreage of cropland, no additions to the soil-building allowance would be made.

**Example of total soil-building allowance.**—A farm not eligible for diversion payments has 50 acres of cropland of which 5 acres are in commercial orchard and 10 acres of vegetable land of which 5 acres are double cropped. It also has 40 acres of pasture land that meets the requirements of the program. The soil-building allowance would be computed as follows:

45 acres of cropland at \$1-----	\$45.00
5 acres of commercial fruit at \$2-----	10.00
5 acres of single-cropped vegetable land at \$1-----	5.00
5 acres of double-cropped vegetable land at \$2-----	10.00
40 acres pasture less $\frac{1}{2}$ of 50=15 acres at 35¢-----	5.25
<b>Total allowance-----</b>	<b>75.25</b>

**Rate of diversion payments.**—On farms eligible for diversion payments, the rate per acre for diverting acreage from the general soil-depleting base will be about 10 percent lower than it was last year. The rate for each farm will depend on how productive that farm is. Payments will be made for diverting up to 15 percent of the general soil-depleting base.

**Diversion from tobacco soil-depleting base.**—Payments per acre for diverting acreage from a farm's tobacco soil-depleting base will be determined by multiplying the average per acre production for the farm by the rate per pound of the type of tobacco concerned. For Connecticut Valley types 51 and 52 the rate will be 4 cents a pound. Payments will be made for diverting up to 15 percent of a farm's base acreage. For other types of tobacco the rate will be 3 cents a pound, and payments will be made for diverting up to 25 percent of a farm's base acreage.

**Crop classification.**—In general crops will be classified as they were last year. Corn, small grains, and tobacco are among the soil-depleting crops. Grasses and legumes in most cases are classified as soil-conserving. Permanent pasture and other land which has not produced a crop since 1930 is classified as neutral. Minor changes in crop classification will be announced in each State.

**Base acreage.**—As was the case last year, each farm's general base acreage of soil-depleting crops will depend on the farm's average acreage of those crops. Farms growing tobacco will have separate tobacco soil-depleting bases. In 1937 some adjustments in the general soil-depleting base will be required by minor changes in the classification of crops. In individual cases other adjustments may be made in an effort to make each farm's base as fair as possible.

**Possible deductions.**—If the 1937 acreage of general soil-depleting crops is larger than a farm's general soil-depleting base acreage, deductions may be made for each acre by which the base is exceeded. For farms which grow tobacco, deductions will be made for each acre by which the tobacco soil-depleting base is exceeded. The rate per acre will be the farm's per acre rate for diverting the type of tobacco concerned. On farms not eligible for diversion payments, no deductions will be made for exceeding the general soil-depleting base unless more than 20 acres of soil-depleting crops are grown in 1937.

**Administration.**—The 1937 program will be administered by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, the State agricultural conservation committee of each State, State extension services, and county or community committees. The local committees will be elected by farmers, and will handle administration of the program in their districts. The cost of local administration in each district will be met out of the payments to farmers of the district. In this way, farmers in local areas which have the most efficient committees will have less taken out of their payments and farmers whose committee expenses run high will have more taken out.

### WHERE TO GET DETAILS

Farmers who cooperate in the program can choose between a wide variety of approved practices, and pick the ones which best fit their systems of farming. Payments under the program will cover part of the cash cost of such practices. Nearly all farmers will find that the program, in addition to promoting the general welfare, is a good business proposition for them.

Your county agent or committeeman will have the details of the new program. He will be glad to talk it over with you.

### Things a Cooperating Farmer Should Do

#### *When*

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|---|--|
| 1. January or February.                         | Vote in the election of county committee.  |
| 2. January or February.                         | State intention to participate.  |
| 3. February, March, April.                      | Work out plan of what he proposes to do under program in 1937 with the county agent, the county conservation agent, or the county committee. |
| 4. Normal time for farm work involved.          | Carry out program.   |
| 5. After July 1, whenever program is completed. | Apply to county committee for check-up on performance.   |
| 6. When supervisor visits farm.                 | Assist in checking performance.  |
| 7. When application is ready.                   | Examine and sign application for payment.  |